

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

Vol. 9.3, Issue #41

August 1999



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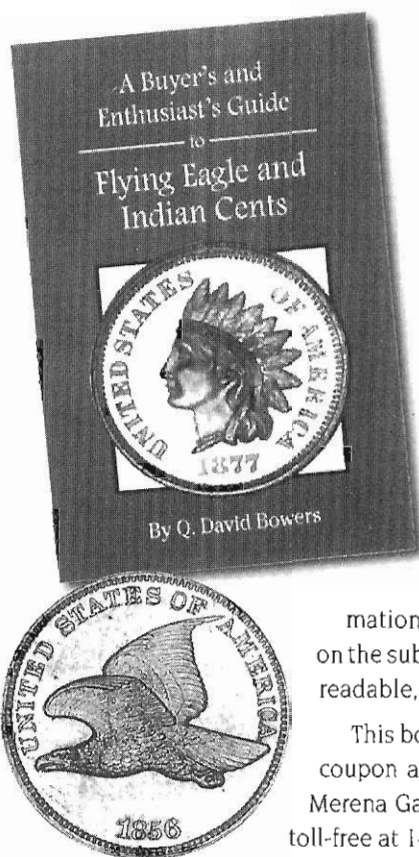
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The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

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Vice President.....Chris Pilliod
Secretary.....J.T. Stanton
Treasurer.....Larry R. Steve
Editor.....Rick Snow

State Representatives

*The following individuals have indicated their willingness to
help promote the club and it's activities in their state.*

Contact information is available from the Editor.

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the editor.

On the cover...

This is the 1888/887 S2. Sometimes called 1888/7 Die #2. A very scarce and desirable variety in it's own right, but not nearly as rare as the 1888/7 S1. However, the pictured example is unique because it is struck in Copper-Nickel! See page 9.

*Image by Rick Snow, Eagle Eye Rare Coins
Special thanks to Lee J. Bellisario.*

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Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ▶ If you have internet access, you can send text and images to the editor's E-mail address below. Contact the Editor for format compatibilities.
- ▶ You may also send files on a 3.5" PC-formatted disk to the Editor address below.
- ▶ Hard copies of the article and pictures may also be submitted.
- ▶ Images of material can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ▶ Please feel to contact the editor if you have any questions.

Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion.

| Issue | Deadline | Issue date |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| #40 1999 Vol. 9.4 | October 15, 1999 | November 1999 |
| #41 2000 Vol. 10.1 | January 15, 2000 | February 2000 |
| #42 2000 Vol. 10.2 | April 15, 2000 | May 2000 |
| #43 1999 Vol. 9.3 | July 15, 2000 | August 2000 |

\$600 in bonuses is to be given with the "Jim Johnson Literary Award" for the best articles of 1999

Editor

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Presidents Letter

Larry R. Steve

Just a few quick comments in this issue.

New Club Address

The resignation of Xan Chamberlain as Secretary/Treasurer placed the Club in a transitional state. There was some misunderstanding, and perhaps some miscommunications, between Rick and myself as to the new address for the Club. I have definitely accepted the position of interim Treasurer, and will be running as such in the next election. A primary function of Treasurer is the receipt and accounting of membership dues. It is only proper and fitting that dues remitted be sent directly to the Treasurer. Accordingly, the new Club address is as follows:

P.O. Box 291
Jarrettsville, Maryland 21084

All advertisers promoting our Club, such as ANACS, will be informed of this change.

Change in Club Name

Many businesses, organizations and other interests have a *legal* name which differs from its public or promotional name. Early American Coppers, Inc. (legal name) is known as EAC, Federal Express Corporation (legal name) is simply known as FedEx, and Wheaties, a cereal product line of General Mills, Inc., continues to be identified as Wheaties "the breakfast of champions".

No one has suggested that we do away with our Club's nickname "The Fly-In Club". Nor has there been a suggestion that we stop "doing business as" (abbreviated as d/b/a in business parlance) "The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society", the very core of our organization. The suggestion was to change *only* our legal name in order that we may broaden our scope of study, AND complete the work necessary to obtain tax-exempt status for our organization (for which we need to identify the purpose of the organization).

Rick raises some valid points in his commentary, but I, for one, believe we should move forward on this initiative. Someone looking for information of Star Trimes, as Rick alluded to, would not necessarily look to an organization seemingly devoted to *just* Flying Eagle and Indian cents. To this group of collectors, and others, we could present ourselves *officially* as the James Barton Longacre Society.

Enough debate. Your vote.

Chris Pilliod Candidacy for President

I have known Chris for all these many years that the Club has been around (even a couple of years before that). Chris has announced his candidacy for President in this issue. My personal view is that Chris is ideally suited to serve as the President of our Club for this next term. He has my full and undivided support and endorsement.

I'll close for now. Until the next issue ...

Letters to the editor

"Credit where credit is due"

By Bob Tagen

Back in January 1996, I wrote Rick Snow of Eagle Eye Rare Coins, Inc. with the descriptions of several coins for his authoritative review. I had found these in a lot privately sold to me in July 1994.

One coin in particular is an 1865 IHC, Fancy 5, with a large 1/2 moon-like die break across the headdress. How could a raised die break occur like this, so concentric and perfect through the headdress, I asked.

Rick graciously photographed the coin for me; along with the others I submitted and returned both the coin and the photographs. We spoke and discussed the coin later that month via telephone.

J. P. Martin's "new discovery" of what is now designated as S14, and his professionally embarrassing write-

up of his "find" in the March 24, 1998 issue of Coin World describing this new variety, and now Mr. Joe Haney's May 1999 Ledger article recounting his 1997 "discovery", has me quite peeved.

After Mr. Martin's Coin World article came out on March 1998, I sent a letter to Rick Snow asking why Mr. Martin could have received acknowledgment for a variety I reviewed with him many years earlier. "I knew I had seen that somewhere..." was his remark.

I spoke with Fly-In Club President, Larry Steve about his thoughts to relaying the "correctness" in listing the discoverer. He suggested that he would correctly make note in the next issue of Longacre's Ledger, which he did in the July-September 1998 issue as part of his "President's Letter" column, and I quote, "As to the crediting of individuals for discoveries, we should be certain that they are properly

Continued on page 6

acknowledged. I recently received a nice letter, accompanied by a reproduced photo, from Club member Bob Tagen who resides in New Hampshire. It appears that Bob had previously reported the 1865 Fancy 5 S14 variety to Rick some time ago. I assured Bob that I would bring this to Rick's attention and publish this correction in the Ledger."

Rick made note in the same issue of the Ledger, in his article "Something New". He noted, "This coin was reported to me by Bob Tagen a few years back so we have to give dual attribution rights to Bob as well as J.P. Martin". Which brings us to the obvious question, which came first, the chicken or the egg?

Editor's reply: I want to thank Bob for bringing his feelings about this situation up. I consider Bob a friend and always like talking to him (for years he's trying to get me to learn how to really play my guitar). The handling of the attribution was done very poorly by this attributor, and a correction which I thought was proper was made earlier in this journal.

The problem with listing discoverer's names in variety lists becomes fully apparent in this case. Did Bob discover the S14? I learned later that J.P. Martin's coin was bought ten years earlier as "something unusual", although it was not reported even though he was the ANAAB attributor and could have easily got it published at the time.

As all collectors know, the discovery of anything "new", perhaps short of a new comet, has been handled by someone before them, seen or reviewed, if not actually passed in circulation. I was not alive in 1865 and I doubt you were either. It is entirely possible that the counter clerk at the penny candy counter, while adding the coin to the till, may have noticed that one looks different, shrugged his shoulders, threw it in the register and thought nothing more about it. So to actually "discover" something new is inherently impossible. To give credit where credit is due is something else.

So in the end it all comes down to you Rick. Are you justified in acknowledging a "dual" attribution of S14? It's your call, Mr. Snow.

Even so, since Bob was first to send it to this Fly-In Club Attributor, he should get the credit. Properly, he is the one who "reported" the coin.

Assigning proper credit, which I believe should always be done, is tricky if we use the word "discoverer". In the A-files, the term adopted is "Attributed to:" which is a bit more vague. This leaves room for interpretation that "discovered by:" does not.

J.P. Martin told me that he does not care one way or the other if he is listed or not. I feel that the dual attribution was fair to all involved. Since Bob does feel strongly that he has been slighted by sharing credit with J.P. Martin, we'll list him alone.

Announcements

Coin Dealer Robbed!

Bud Kolanda; a club member and frequent contributor to the *Ledger*; was robbed of his inventory shortly after he left the Clearwater Coin Show on the 4th of July weekend when he stopped for gas. Keep a lookout for Indians in cardboard 2x2s with multi-colored lettering on the holders. The scary thing is that in the past few months; several robberies have been reported occurring when the individuals left coin shows. Be careful out there guys!!

Thanks to Jerry Wysong for this report.

Errata

Larry Steve's article "The art of pricing varieties" in LL 9.1 & 9.2 should have had the following note at the end:

Editor's note: This article was first written in 1994 and was included as a chapter in the book entitled "The F.I.N.D.E.R.S.[™] Report: A Comprehensive Guide to Selected Rare Flying eagle and Indian Cent Die Varieties". It is reprinted here in a two part series with the authors permission.

It should also be noted that the 1994 copyright on that article still applies.

Market action

An 1888/7 graded VF30 by PCGS was recently sold by Sam Lukes for \$11,500 in an ad in the June 14th *Coin World*. Also reportedly selling was a 1858/7 S1 EDS graded MS64 by NGC for \$11,000; a 1873 S1 Doubled LIBERTY, ANACS MS61BN for \$11,500; 1880 S1 (offset clashed reverse) PCGS MS65RD for \$5,000.

Al Williams, of AA Coin Company recently put up his own collection of Proof 64RD and 65RD Indian Cents in the July 26th issue of *Coin World*. Most all were photo sealed. Al tells me that most coins sold within a few days.

A rare proof 1864-L cent, one of only 20 known, graded PR64RB by PCGS sold for \$48,300 in Superior's June "Pre-Long Beach" sale. The second finest known 1873 Double LIBERTY, graded MS65RB by PCGS sold in the same sale for \$41,400. A bargain! The 1888/7 S1 featured on the cover of last issue's "Longacre's Ledger", a NGC graded MS64RB specimen, was offered in lot 1701 as the "discovery coin". The hammer fell at \$39,100 but the reserve was nearly double that, so it did not sell. This coin is not one of the discovery coins, contrary to the cataloger's claim. (Two were simultaneously found by Jim Ruddy in 1970).

"Flying Eagle, Indian, Two cent, and Three cent doubled dies"

A review by Rick Snow

It's always a great for the hobby when someone publishes new and interesting books. The latest addition to my Library is the above mentioned book.

The book being reviewed is published by Stanton Publishing and Printing, and it is an admirable job. The copy I have has a spiral binding which makes it useful to use fully open. Finding it on my bookshelf next to other spiral bound volumes, including "The Fly-In Club Attribution Files", is the only drawback I see to this type of arrangement. It is also available in a hardbound format. (\$39.95 Spiral and \$69.95 Hardbound)

The layout is in the same "one page per variety" (sometimes two) that was used in his earlier works on Lincoln Cents (with John Wexler), MPD's and Flying Eagle and Indian Cents (with Larry Steve). The author has built a database from all the various sources which he hopes one day will include all dies made. (We'll call that one "the phonebook"!)

The only drawback to his database approach, in my opinion, is that relatively minor varieties get equal treatment with the rarest and most popular. This is not a shortcoming, but it does make the book unnecessarily heavy - more so for the MPD book, than the current book, which is 174 pages (Including Title page, Advertising and club applications which are numbered as well).

As far as Flying Eagles and Indian Cents are covered in the book, it is more or less contains the same doubled dies listed in the Fly-In Club Attribution Guide (A-Files). The big improvement over the A-Files is of course the addition of images, and this is the books strong point. Numerous images of each and every variety are scattered on every page. Some known varieties that should have been included, weren't (many from 1870 - a daunting year to cover), while other seemingly microscopic doubled dies are included.

The section describing how doubled dies are made and the descriptions of the different types is a rewritten and expanded version from the 1995 book on Flying Eagle and Indian cent varieties. This section may be reason enough to own the book.

Each variety is priced in VF through MS65RB, although without a reference of what premium is being represented (if any) over a normal coin, I find it of little value. My own opinion is that prices will make a book outdated as soon as it is printed.

All in all, it's a worthwhile book for anyone interested in doubled dies. And I'm sure will be greatly appreciated by variety collectors who have been frustrated with the lack of pictures in the A-Files.

I would like to thank the author for listing this reviewer in the acknowledgment section for supplying a few photos from the Fly-In Club image files. However, I feel a bit slighted (and Fly-In Club members should as well) that none of the major references on Flying Eagle and Indian Cents: "Flying Eagle and Indian Cents" by this reviewer; "A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents" by Bowers; and "The Fly-In Club Attribution Guide" are not listed in the list of references cited (although they certainly were). The authors earlier collaboration with Larry Steve is not mentioned anywhere (possibly for legal reasons).

Specialty clubs like The Lincoln Cent Society and NCADD were each given a full page for membership application, The Fly-In Club was not (neither was CONECA). This, of course, is the authors legitimate right, but I feel it throws salt into wounds that were not at all opened by The Fly-In Club. Most people know that one member of the Fly-In Club has had a legal action pending against the author essentially because a contribution to one of his earlier books went unrecognized. The member taking this legal action is not an officer of the club - and it is not in relation to anything regarding the Fly-In Club. It would be a real shame if the author takes the actions of one member as an assault by the Club membership. The Fly-In club supports all persons interested in researching Longacre's coins - including the author of this book. Since the core readership for a book of this sort is The Fly-In Club membership, the author should have been a little more accommodating and at least asked us to place a membership application with the others.

Ongoing projects supported by the club

1857-58 Flying Eagles Don Curry
1864-L, 1873 Closed 3 Larry Steve
1856 Flying Eagles, 1858 pattern cents Rick Snow

Other clubs closely related to our club

American Numismatic Association (ANA)
818 N. Cascade Ave. Colorado Springs, CO 80903 Dues: \$26/yr.

CONECA
9017 Topperwind Ct. Ft. Worth, TX 76134 Dues: \$20/yr.

Lincoln Cent Society (LCS)
P.O. Box 113, Winfield, IL 60590 Dues: \$28/yr.

The National Collectors Association of Die Doubling (NCADD)
P.O. Box 15, Lykens, PA 17048 Dues: \$28/yr.

Early American Coppers (EAC)
1468 Timberlane Dr., St. Joseph, MO 64505 Dues: \$20

John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS)
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030 Dues: \$15

Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC)
P.O. Box 776, Crystal Lake, IL 60039 Dues: \$15

Barber Coin Collectors Society (BCCS)
415 Ellcn Dr., Brookhaven, MS 39601 Dues: \$15

How many are there anyway?

By Jerry Wysong

Where does the time go?? Here it is with the middle of July already and it seems like only yesterday that it was a lovely spring day when I was preparing the last article. The bright side is that the start of a new coin season is just around the corner with new opportunities for participating in the hunt. I can hardly wait!

The mid-summer doldrums are upon us; with only a few new *Finds* being reported. I attribute this to the hunting grounds being closed for the summer. It seems there are very few shows from May until the ANA rolls around in August.

There were two extraordinary *Finds* reported.

First is the 1857 S11 MS64 acquired by sharp eyed Tim Larson from a Superior auction in June. Second is the

1857 S9 in NGC MS-64 that Steve Nakonechny found in cyberspace at an on-line auction. Both *Finds* were unattributed and are condition census pieces, with Tim's S11 being the finest reported for that variety. Great hunting guys!! And thanks for sharing with all of us.

And now it's time to get out here and get the grass mowed (thrill, thrill) before the thunderstorms roll in again. Many thanks to all of you who make this article possible by contributing to the Census. It's you who take the time to share, who make it all possible. My mailing address is: P.O. Box 292561, Dayton, Ohio 45429

For those of you with Internet access, my e-mail address is: jiwysong@erinet.com

The *finds* reported to me for the period of April 1 through June 30, 1999 are listed below:

DOUBLE DIES

- 1.1887 S-1, Fine; Steve Shaw
- 2.1880 S-1, AU-55; Larry Steve
- 3.1909 S-1; AU-50; Quent Hansen
- 4.1909 S-1; VF-35; (2 pcs.); Q.Hansen
- 5.1909 DDO FND-001; F-15; Quent Hansen
- 6.1909 S-1; AU; W.O. Walker
- 7.1909 S-1; Extra Fine; (2 pcs) W.O. Walker

MISPLACED DATES

- 1.1894 S-2; ANACS AU-58; Steve Shaw
- 2.1897 S-1; Good; Jerry Wysong
- 3.1887/7 S-2; PCIG-6; Quent Hansen

DOUBLED DIE TABLE

| VARIETY | | G/VGF | VF | EF | AU | 60/62 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | TOTAL |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1864 1-O-V | S-4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 1865 1-R-IV | S-2 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 21 |
| 1866 1-O-V | S-1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 36 |
| 1868 1-O-III | S-1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 28 |
| 1870 1-O-IV(3) | S-1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 40 |
| 1870 2-O-IV | S-3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 1870 3-O-IV | S-5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 1873 1-O-III | S-1 | 36 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 121 |
| 1873 2-O-III | S-2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 48 |
| 1874 1-O-V | S-1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 1880 1-O-IV | S-1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 18 |
| 1887 1-O-V | S-1 | 31 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 61 |
| 1889 1-R-III | S-1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 28 |
| 1890 1-O-II(3) | S-1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 22 |
| 1891 1-O-IV | S-1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 34 |
| 1909 1-O-III | S-1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 38 |

MISPLACED DIGIT TABLE

| VARIETY | | G/VGF | VF | EF | AU | 60/62 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-----|-------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1870 0-in-Dent. | S-5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 1870 FND-004 | S-8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| 1873 op 3 | S-6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 1883 1-in - Neck | S-1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 23 |
| 1884 4 -in - Dent | S-1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 21 |
| 1888/7 | S-2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| 1888 8-in-Dent. | S-8 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| 1891 FND-003 | S-7 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| 1894 94-in-Dent. | S-2 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 25 |
| 1897 1-in-Neck | S-1 | 44 | 17 | 8 | 15 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 100 |
| 1902 0-in-Dent. | S-1 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 19 |

REPUNCHED DATES

1. 1865/4 Fancy S-1; ANACS AU-58; Steve Shaw
2. 1891 S-3; ANACS MS-65 RB; Steve Shaw
3. 1894 S-1; Very Good; Jerry Wysong
4. 1888/7 S-1; ANACS VG; Steve Shaw
5. 1857/1857; S-11; MS-64; Tim Larson
6. 1894 S-1; Good (2 pcs.); Quent Hansen

CLASHED DIES

1. 1857 S-7; ANACS VF-35; Larry Steve
2. 1857 S-8; ANACS EF-45; Larry Steve
3. 1857 S-9; NGC MS-64; Stephen Nakonechny
4. 1857 S-9; Fine; W.O. Walker

Updates:

1. 1857/1857 S-11; previously reported as MS-60 now ANACS MS-63; Quent Hansen
2. 1888/7 S-2; previously reported as PCIF-15; now ANACS VF-30; Quent Hansen

REPUNCHED DATE TABLE

| VARIETY | | G/VGF | VF | EF | AU | 60/62/63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | TOTAL | |
|---------------|------|-------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|-------|-----|
| 1857/57 | S-11 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| 1858/7 EDS | S-1 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 50 |
| 1858/7 Type 2 | S-7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| 1859/9 | S-1 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| 1865/4 Fancy | S-1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| 1865/4 Plain | S-1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 14 |
| 1866/1 | S-3 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 22 |
| 1867/67 | S-1 | 38 | 10 | 15 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 15 | 5 | 112 |
| 1869/18 | S-1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| 1872/182 | S-1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 19 |
| 1888/7 die #1 | S-1 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| 1891/1891 | S-3 | 15 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 57 |
| 1894/94 | S-1 | 95 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 164 |
| 1895/895 | S-1 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 20 |

CLASHED DIE TABLE

| VARIETY | | G/VGF | VF | EF | AU | 60/62/63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | TOTAL |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1857 \$20 Obv. | S-7 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| 1857 25c Rev. | S-8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 27 |
| 1857 50c Obv. | S-9 | 18 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 58 |

More about the 1888/7 S2 struck in Cu-Ni.

By Richard Snow

I still recall my excitement upon seeing this coin for the first time! It was at the ANA summer seminar in July 1997. I was instructing the Flying Eagle, Indian and Lincoln cent class with Virg Marshall III, and had finished my half of the teaching and had some free time to sit in on other classes. Bob Campbell and J.P. Martin were teaching the counterfeit detection course and were demonstrating the electron microscope and were gracious enough to let me attend.

One of the coins being tested was a Indian cent which tested to be 75% Copper and 25% Nickel! Wow! Upon examining the coin, I found it to be a 1888 S2, the Die 2 overdate! This was apparently unknown at the time.

I wrote about my account in the "Something New" column in "Longacre's Ledger" #7.4, October 1997.

In 1998, east coast dealer, George Maroskos, who owned the coin and was the submitter, called me up and said he had the coin. He had not known that I had already seen it while it was at the ANA. I related that I had, and that it was a rare variety besides being struck in Copper-Nickel. Either in the meantime, or previously to being submitted to the ANA, noted numismatist Lee J. Bellisario had examined the coin and made note of the variety as well, so my information was not new news to George.

At this time the coin was at PCGS and the attribution S2 was added to the label. The coin graded MS64. The coin



Continued on page 10

was put in the special large housing, typically called a "casket" because of its shape. This was probably the choice because of the special labeling that was desired on the holder. It is now labeled by PCGS a "S2 Nickel Die Trial".

The coin was put up for sale in a blind mail bid arrangement that made it very difficult to be sure of being the winning bidder. I wasn't. The coin now resides in a private collection.

Lee Bellisario was very instrumental in getting the coin to me to photograph. These are published here for the first time.

Why does this coin exist? There are a few possibilities which we should look at.

Is it struck on a three cent nickel planchet? The series ended the following year this is the most plausible explanation. However, the coin is neither the correct weight of the 3 cent nickel, nor does it show the expected weakness.

Is it a die trial as labeled on the holder? I don't believe so. Die trials are typically made in softer metals like copper or after 1868, aluminum. Nickel would not even be considered for a die trial.

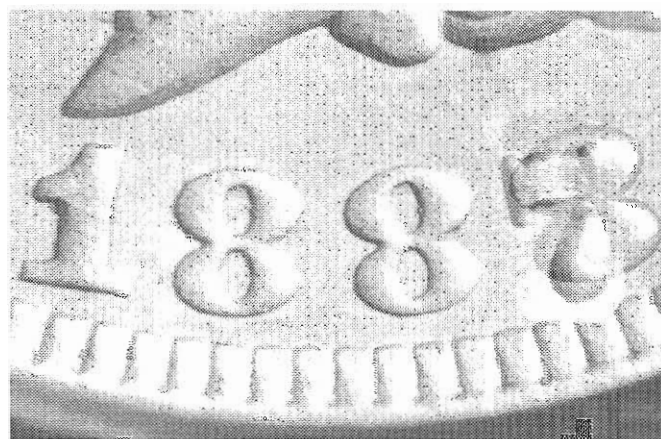
Is it a pattern? There is no historical evidence to suggest this. The fabric of the coin is that of a normal business strike, a fairly late die state at that. A proof would be expected for a pattern.

Is it some kind of fancy piece made for a collector? This always a possibility. The coin seems to have been unknown until 1997, over 109 years since it was struck. I would think a special striking would have shown up in some auction in the intervening years.

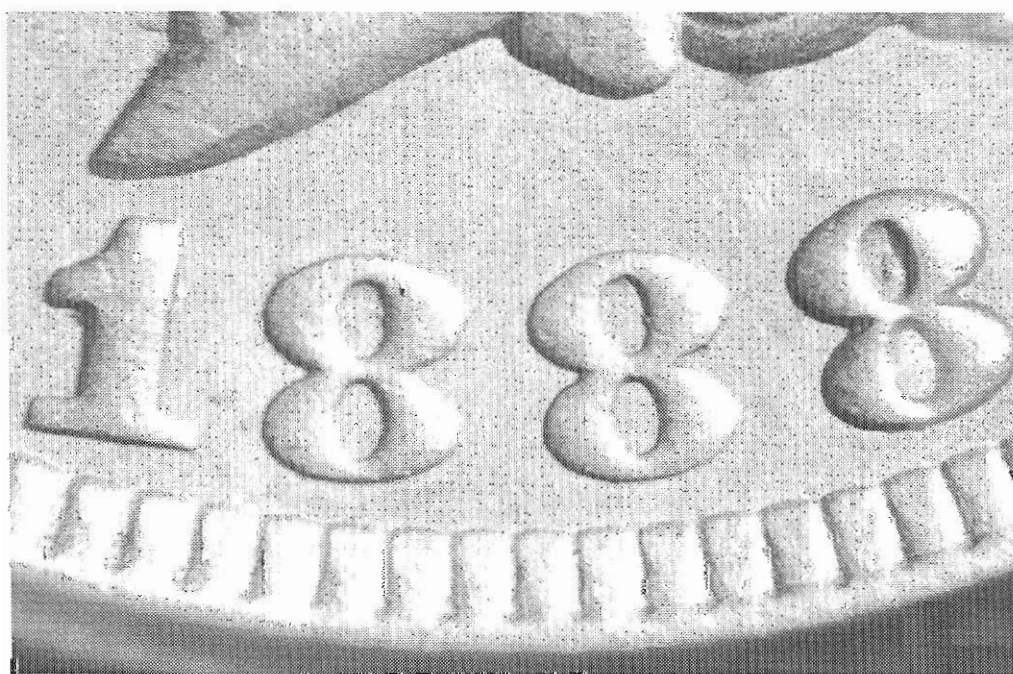
My theory is that it was a simple mistake, pure and simple. The mistake was not made at the Mint. It was made at

Joseph Wharton's mills. Wharton was supplier of copper and nickel planchets to the Mint in 1887 through 1889 (as well as other years when he won the yearly contract). It would not be impossible for a sheet of copper-nickel to be fed into a cent planchet punch instead of the three cent planchet punch. These error planchets would probably be detected prior to shipping, though. If one planchet escaped into the cent planchet hopper it could easily get shipped to the Mint, get struck and sent into circulation without anyone knowing.

The odds that the stray error planchet happened to get struck on the dies of a scarce and popularly collected variety are astronomical, but apparently that is exactly what happened.



An overlay showing where elements of the 7 appear under the last 8.



The 1888/887 overdate, S2. Copper-Nickel.

"Greater love hath no man ..."

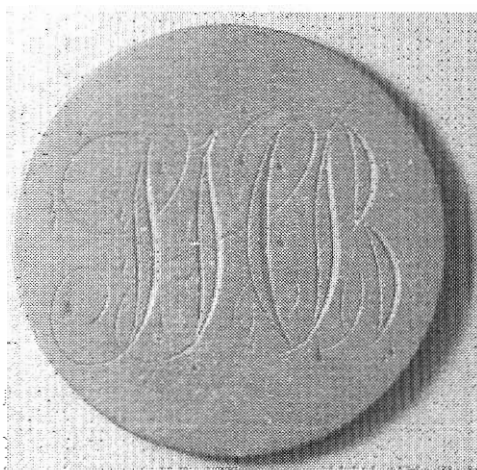
by Bill Fivaz, NLG

This statement is certainly true when we look at the three Love Tokens in this article.

As you know, Love Tokens were popular in this country during the latter half of the 19th Century, when young men had the reverse (usually) of a coin shaved off and the initials, name or some significant scene carved on the blank side by a jeweler or an engraver at a booth at a fair. He then presented this carved coin to his lady friend, to be worn on a bracelet or necklace as a "token of his love".

Usually the coin involved was a silver dime, as this was a precious metal coin and the giver didn't want to seem "frugal". Some are also known on nickels (blue-collar workers?), and a very few are found on copper cents (still looking for a job, eh?). The three Indian Cents shown here are early ones, but as the saying goes,, "the story doesn't end here

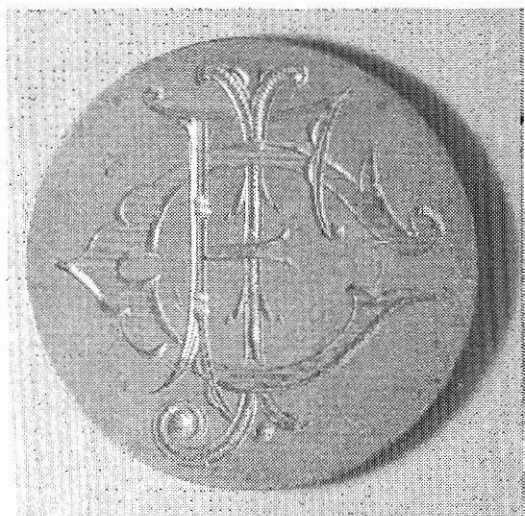
Continued on page 12



"THB"



"WLW"



"FJC"

The first one has a very ornate "T H B" engraved on the reverse, but the "Oh, no!" side is the obverse, dated side. As you can see, it's the 1869/9 variety, long thought to be a 9/8 overdate. The coin was probably used on a pin as it has white solder where it was attached to something else.



Obverse of "THB"

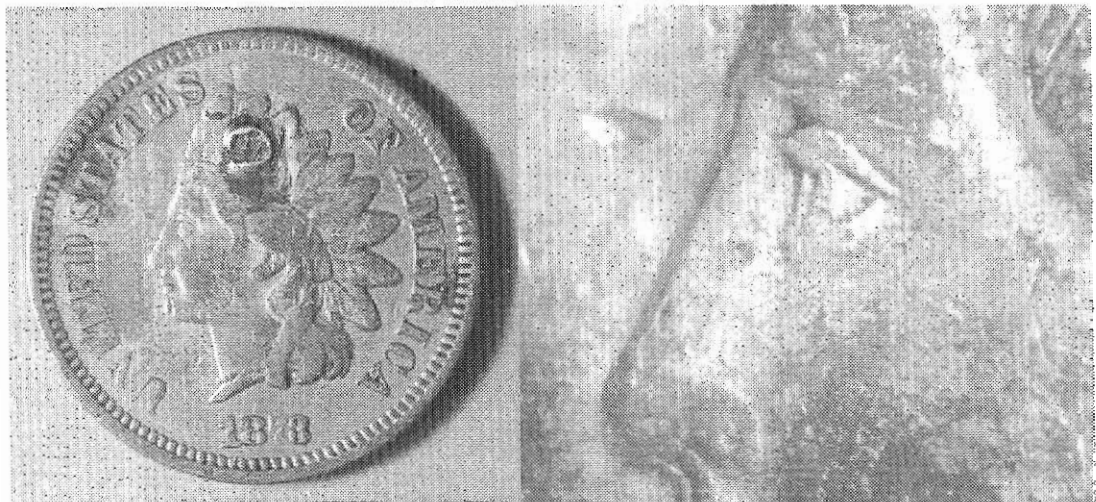
By now you're probably saying: "What could be worse than that?!" Well, the third Love Token is the cruncher. I just bought this one last week, and it has a nicely engraved "F J C" on the reverse. Yep, you guessed it! The obverse shows that it's the 1873 Doubled Die Obverse (S-1)! The obverse was plated gold a long time ago, but the doubling shows up very nicely on the close-up ouch!!!

These three suitors had no idea how much they loved their lady friends ... or did they?!

The second was given to me several years ago by my good friend from Connecticut, Ray Mercer. It has an even more elaborate carving of three intertwined initials on it... "W L W". It's difficult to determine on intertwined initials such as these just what are the first, middle and last initials. Most believe that the largest or more ornately carved letter is the last name, the next most intricate the first name, and the least impressive usually represents the middle initial. As on the last token, the side that brings tears to the eyes of Indian Cent specialists is the obverse ... note that it's an 1877 in Fine condition! Wanna bet the giver of this token wasn't a coin collector?



Obverse of "WLW"



Obverse of "FJC"

"Snow cover plate" coin recovered.

by Rick Snow



If the coin pictured here looks somewhat familiar, it should be to many of you - It's the coin featured on the cover of my 1992 book, "Flying Eagle and Indian Cents". The coin was stolen in 1992, shortly after the release of the book and has been a truly unobtainable coin ever since. The coin was recently recovered and is presently cleared from any legal ownership questions.

Back in 1990 when I was putting the finishing touches my book, I recognized the need to feature a really super coin on the cover. I thought about a high grade coin, perhaps a 1877 or 1856, but nothing was readily available which was truly special in my mind.

At the time I was working as Numismatist for Elliot Goldman's "Allstate Coin" in Tucson, AZ. At one of the Long Beach shows, another dealer, Norm Pullen showed me this 1873 Double LIBERTY. It was unslabbed and Norm said that he bought it back in the early 1960's for an astounding (for the time) \$1,000! He wanted to sell it and was asking \$7,500. I convinced Elliot to buy it, which he did only after it was certified. Norm sent it right off to PCGS for certification, and it graded MS64RB.

Not long afterward I decided that this coin should be on the cover of my book. I need to get it out of the holder, send it to photographer, Tom Mulvaney, and then get it back in the holder without any risk to the coin or the grade it received. Today that would be easy. Back then PCGS had few

requests for special permission to open holders for photography so this was an obstacle. Finally, they worked out a deal where they would open the slab, send it to Tom to photograph, then reholder it again.

In all, it cost about \$300 to get the photograph. It was worth it though, since the coin came out even better than how it looks in person! My book was published in 1992 with this coin on the cover.

Many months later, a decision was made to break the coin out and send it to NGC. (I wish Elliot would have made that decision a bit earlier!) It graded MS65RB! There was one problem - NGC had forgotten to designate the variety on the holder. This was only days before a Central States show and Elliot immediately sent to coin back to NGC via Federal Express to get the holder corrected.

It never made it.

Inquiries were made and heated discussions with FedEx were made by Elliot. He really knew a thing or two about heating up a discussion. Anyway the search dragged on and the coin was deemed stolen. It seems a Fed Ex employee in Memphis was the culprit. After about a year the insurance company paid off the claim (\$35,000 as I recall). The settlement was large for the coin at the time. The near twin coin sold about that time for less than \$12,000, although that one was still in a 64RB holder. This was the only MS65RB

Continued on page 14

graded at the time. It also held the unique distinction of being plated on the cover of the only reference on the subject at the time. There was no way to accurately gauge the value. No MS65RB had ever sold before.

Fast forward to 1996. Elliot Goldman passed away in 1995, all the important paperwork regarding this coin are gone with the dissolution of Allstate Coins. I get a call from a dealer: "Rick you won't believe this... A customer came in with a 1873 NGC-MS65RB Indian Cent... Guess what!... It's a double LIBERTY!... But it doesn't say so on the holder." I immediately knew what coin it was and asked him if he had my book, and if it matched the picture. He checked and came back on the phone, "Yea! It's the same coin!". I told him that the coin was stolen and that the rightful owner was some insurance company. He said "Gee, I guess I won't be buying this one then.... Thanks."

The coin disappeared again.

Proper or not, handling stolen merchandise is very risky. Some people would just assume not get involved. A year goes by and I get another call from another dealer, "Hey Rick, what's a 1873 Double LIBERTY worth in 65RB?" I said, "it is an NGC graded coin?" He said it was. Again, I asked him if he had my book and if it matched the coin on the cover. He said it did. I explained the tricky situation regarding the legal ownership.

In this instance the owner of the coin had asked the dealer to send the coin to NGC to get the variety designation added to the label, which he did. This dealer now had possession of merchandise known to be stolen. Following his admirable business ethics, he denied the owner the coin and held it until the legal ownership could be resolved. He asked if I could help, and of course I said yes.

Tracking down the insurance company which paid the claim seemed like an easy task, but all the information regarding the claim was destroyed after Elliot Goldman's passing. The original submission form was not found either. I called the Elliot's widow, and she said that none of that information survived. A break came when I called my insurance agent who had also been Allstate Coin's agent. She gave me the name of the company.

I had to go through person after person at the insurance company to get to anyone who knew about the missing "penny". Finally I was directed to a claim handler in New York. He had the information on the claim.

Great! I told him where the coin was. I sent him a copy of the cover of my book to verify the coin.

In the meantime the dealer who had the coin contacted his lawyer, who wanted definite proof that this coin was the actual coin that was stolen. He wanted documents showing the serial number on the coin. This did not survive. Stalemate.

If you want to complicate anything, get lawyers involved. The fact that a huge picture of the coin was printed on every one of 8000 books made no difference. Months went by with weekly calls by me to keep the parties talking. Delay...Delay...Delay.

Finally, the claim handler asked for me to submit a

bid, which I did. He got two others. Mine was highest.

In the course of the year which it took to get to this point, I learned a few things about the hidden history of the coin.

It seems that the crook who stole it out of a FedEx box did not know what he got. The holder was that of a regular NGC graded 1873 cent, MS65RB. No Closed 3, No Double LIBERTY. Just an average coin. He sold it for \$200 to the collector who eventually brought it in for reholding. He identified the guy he bought it from, who turned out to be a known felon. Luckily, no one was not out tens of thousands of dollars.

The final story had yet to be told regarding this coin. The coin is bound to find a home at last in a nice collection where coins have their own stories to tell.

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"Keep on Searchin'"

By Chris Pilliod

There are a number of very good specialized clubs for the coin collector. The John Reich Club distinguishes itself in it's research of early Bust coinage, the Early American Copper club does likewise with Half Cent and Large cent pursuits, and the Liberty Seated Club interests itself in Gobrecht's designs. I happen to be or have been a member of six different specialized clubs, and although each is unique and of interest I still find the Flying Eagle and Indian cent my favorite pursuit.

In following the club's respective news it is of interest to note the unveiling of new discoveries in each of the series. New unlisted die varieties in the early Bust and copper turn up with the frequency of locusts— about every 7 years one is found in either of these series. No new die pairs have been found in the last three years.

Although the discovery of new die varieties in the Seated series is much more frequent it's pace is also slowing down compared to years past.

Compare this to Flying Eagle and Indian cents. These are type coin series (no longer minted) where considerable human input was still needed to produce a die (a real bugaboo for the die-hard Bust collector who relishes the fact that early dies were "handcrafted" as compared to mass production techniques of later years). The date was manually

punched into each die until 1909 and virtually all dies were handworked to enhance its quality. No two dies within a given year are identical.

Combine these with two other factors. First of all the cent was highly produced even during the years of 1856 through 1909. Secondly die life, to use the vernacular, "just plain stunk" by today's standards. Many dies were needed to produce these quantities; and many did not last. Bottom line: There are still a large number of new die varieties to be discovered.

Case in point. In helping Rick Snow put the finishing touches on his book in 1991 I told him, "I think we should have all the good varieties now". Not nine months later did Bob Stimax of Florida call and say he had found a strongly doubled obverse die (S4) on an 1864 Bronze cent. At first I thought it couldn't be— that many people could not have missed it all these years. Sure enough it was a beautiful find.

The difference with our series is simply that a lot (I mean *a lot*) of dies were used to issue these coinages. And some are very rare because the dies did not last. Even though the dawn of new millenium is near and all these research has been done, and you may feel you are a novice— all it takes is knowledge, patience, opportunity and a loupe, so keep looking. And don't forget to report any new finds to Rick, Club Contributor.

Chris Pilliod Runs for President of "The Fly-In Club"

After considerable thought I have decided to run for Club President this year. My platform will be a simple one. We have been through a bit of strife, and more enjoyment and less politics need to be put back into our little club. Our Ledger needs to continue to improve— I know many of our club members, so I know firsthand we have a lot of good people amongst our ranks. I also know that we have a source of extreme knowledge. When you sit around and have a campfire sing-a-long it always sounds better and is a lot more fun when everybody pitches in. We need to tap our talent and experience better, both through the Ledger and electronically.

I have had good feedback on the article I wrote on Al Mays and have committed to doing more profiles of interesting numismatists. I have also received commitments from others that are willing to write articles on a regular basis for the Ledger.

Continuous improvement of the Ledger will be the Foundation for a sound membership, financial stability, and good fun for all. Thanks for your time,

Respectfully, Chris Pilliod

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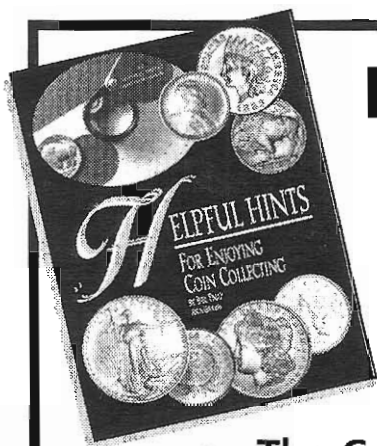
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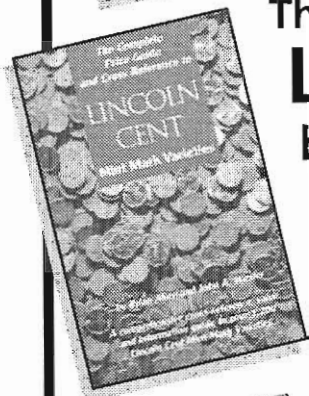
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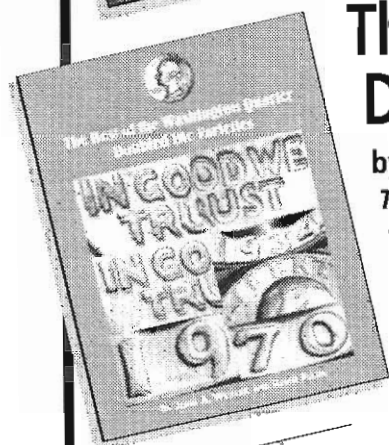
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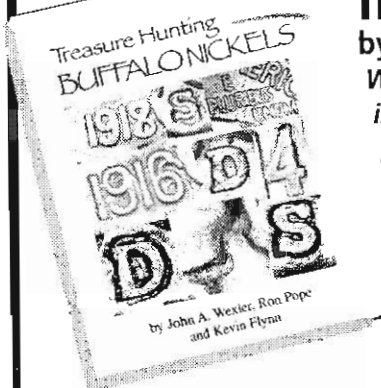
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1857 "Obverse of 1856" Dies

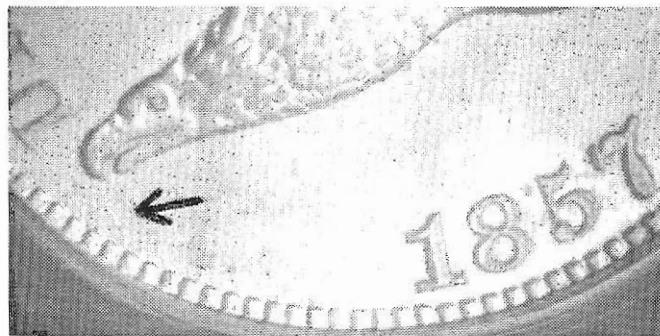
Part 2 of 2

by Donald R. Curry

Part 1 of this article described three of the six known dies of this variety. Dies 4, 5 and 6 are described herein. In distinguishing between these dies, the starting point is identifying the date placement, which is different on each of these dies. The method of identifying date placement will be reviewed to assist new readers before proceeding with the descriptions.

The date positions given in the Attribution Files describe the position of the left edge of the base of the "1" in relation to the denticles immediately below it. For example, "B" means "between denticles." These positions are used in this article, and, to more accurately describe the placement, the denticle numbers are given.

Denticles are numbered using the following method, which the author has found to be easy and extremely useful. The left edge of the crossbar of the left leg of the "U" of "UNITED" aligns over a denticle. This is a hub feature. The next denticle to the south is denticle "1" for identification purposes. The denticle count proceeds south and east around the rim. The position of the "1" of the date normally relates to denticles 20, 21, 22 or 23. A date position of B 21/22 means that the left edge of the base of the "1" aligns between denticles 21 and 22.



Die 4. Obverse die crack

Die 4. This die has not been previously described.

Obverse: Date position - LH 21. In high grade examples, numerous die lines are seen from the "57" throughout the southeast quadrant, the most distinctive of which is a diagonal line running southwest to northeast through the five. Another distinctive die line starts at the upper east side of the "I" of "AMERICA" and extends southwest through the bottom half of the "C" into the bottom of the "A". The five is closed.

As the die ages, numerous cracks develop. The first crack connects the top of the beak to the side of the "U". As this crack develops, it extends north through the "U", through the left leg of the "N", drops below the right leg of the "N", and goes into the field below the "I". To the south, it goes from the tip of the beak southeasterly into denticle 7 (See Photo). Another crack develops at the base of "STATES", which ultimately connects to the bases of "STAT".

In late die states, a crack connects the top tail feather and denticle 56. An unusual crack develops from the tip of the second tail feather from the bottom proceeding southwest under the claw into the field above "57".

Other interesting markers worthy of note are the misplaced dates between denticles 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34. The tops of three eights may be easily seen on early die state examples. This is one of several misplaced dates in the Flying Eagle series, and it is very similar to one of the multiple misplaced dates on one of the 1870 dies.

Reverse: The "leaf" at the base of the "T" is normal, and the seeds of the east cotton bowl are connected. The interior of the west bow is polished, the space between bows is polished, and the lower third of the east bow is polished with a unique marker on the west interior side of the east bow.

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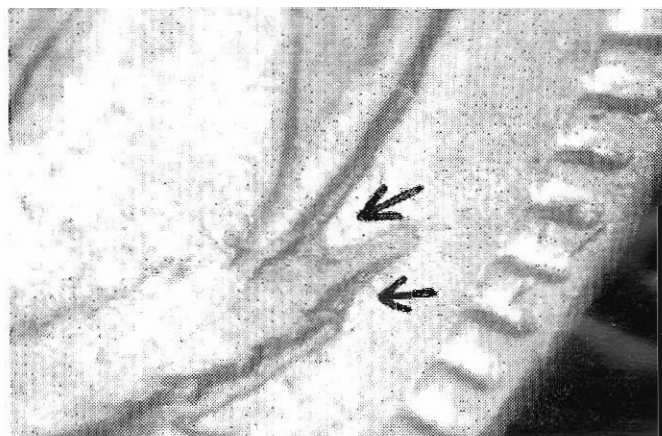
Continued on page 20

Die 5. This die has not been previously described.

Obverse: Date position - RE 22. This die has few distinctive markers. On high grade examples, three diagnostic die lines may be seen in the space between the eagle's claw and the feathers lying southwest to northeast. The "Es" are closed at the top and bottom. The five is closed.

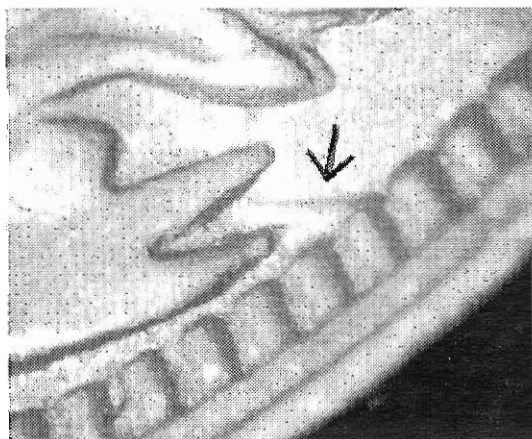
As the die ages, a minute crack develops on top of the eagle's beak, which gradually extends to the southwest corner of the "U".

Reverse: High "leaf" at the base of the "T". The tip of the leaf is nearly even with the base of the "T". The seeds on the east cotton bowl are connected. Clear outlining at the base of the bow and ribbons. Outlining on the outside of the wreath at 10:00 to 11:30, 12:30 to 2:00, and 3:00 to 5:00 areas. There is light outlining inside the wreath on the leaf below the "T" and on the west side of the west bow. There are strong polish lines between the west ribbon and the wreath. A distinct die line goes from the east corn ear under the tip of the top wheat ear into the field at 3:30 (See Photo). This line is difficult to see on low grade pieces.



Die 5. Reverse die line

Early in die life, a jagged crack develops at the top of the corn husk at 10:00 and extends southwest into the denticles. A minute crack develops in the denticles at 2:00, which in late die states extends to the wreath.



Die 6. Reverse die anomaly

Die 6. This die has not been previously described.

Obverse: Date position - B 22/23. There are strong die lines between denticles 5 and 6, 8 and 9, 9 and 10, 10 and 11, and 13 and 14. On circulated examples, the line between denticles 8 and 9 is the strongest. The denticles are open (thin) in the 11:00 to 3:00 area. The "Es" are closed at the top and bottom. The five, which appears to be open, is slightly closed by metal flow.

Very early in die life, a small crack develops on the top of the eagle's beak. As the die ages, this progresses north to the side of the "U", goes through the lower inside of the "U", proceeds northwesterly toward the rim, intersecting the left leg of the "N" at about the midway point, continues through the "N" exiting just below the right top bar and goes into the denticles above the "I", splitting into two minute cracks in the denticles. To the south, the crack extends from the tip of the beak to denticle 9.

It is interesting to note that the well-developed crack in the same general area on Die 4 takes an entirely different course after exiting the "U".

In middle die state, a rim cud develops above the "AT" of "STATES" being above the left half of the top of the "T" and above the space between the "A" and "T".

Late in die life, a crack starts at the rim above the denticle lying above the space between the "O" and "F". This crack extends southwest to the upper member of the "S", through the top of the "S" and through the top of the "E". In very late stages, it extends northwest from the northwest corner of the "E" into the rim connecting to the east corner of the rim cud described in the preceding paragraph.

Reverse: High "leaf" at the base of "T". The tip of the leaf is virtually even with the base of the "T", slightly higher than the leaf of Die 5. The seeds in the east cotton bowl are connected. Outlining at the base of the bow and ribbons, under the leaf at 7:30, outside the west side of the wreath from 10:00 to the top, inside the upper leaf of the east cotton bowl, and outside the east side of the wreath to 5:00. Outlining on the inside of the wreath on the leaf below the "T".

A diagnostic die anomaly appears between the tips of the east ribbon lying east/west and extending east into the denticles (See Photo). Between the west ribbon tips, there are two vertical lines which are visible on higher grade pieces.

The author would be glad to attribute these dies and would be delighted to examine any new discoveries. Although lengthy, this article does not attempt to discuss all of the features of these dies. In cherry-picking for this variety, be sure to check all of the letters of the legend. Many of the Die 3 type have been unattributed.

Thanks to all of you who supported this research.

**Byron Reed's Flying Eagle and Indian Cents:
A Journey into 19th Century Numismatics
by Quent Hansen**

Much has been written on the Byron Reed collection of rare coins and documents that 19th century real estate tycoon, Byron Reed, bequeathed to the City of Omaha when he died in 1891. This world class collection was especially news-worthy in October, 1996 when a portion of the collection was sold by the City of Omaha to benefit the Durham Western Heritage Museum. A portion of the Indian Cents were dispersed in auction at that time.

The collection has been off display for several years while a new exhibit room was under construction. The new Byron Reed gallery reopened this past June. Much attention to detail has been given to make a visitor feel as though he were viewing the coins in Mr. Reed's 19th century style "coin cabinets". It is a very impressive display of coins. Larry Lee, the collection's curator, has done an outstanding job making the display inviting for the lay person as well as for the seasoned numismatist.

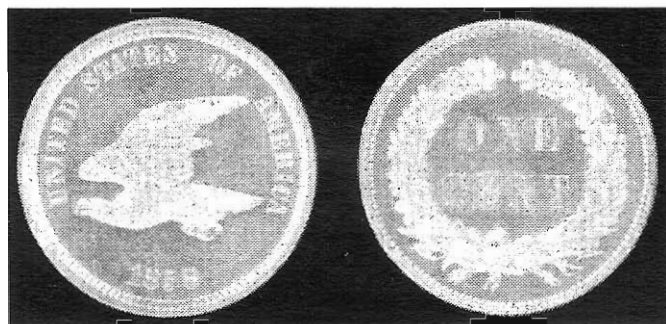


Fig. 1. 1858 Pattern J-203

Recently, I was honored with the opportunity to study the Flying Eagle and Indian cents in the collection. Mr. Lee had asked me to attribute any varieties and grade them.

My excitement level was high as I sat down to study each coin. Imagine holding coins in your hand that were collected in the 19th century. As I examined each coin, I would often wonder about how Mr. Reed might have obtained each of the coins. One has to keep in mind that Omaha, Nebraska was not exactly the central hub of finer things like coin collecting. Thus, Mr. Reed had to travel to obtain many of the coins and documents in the collection.

All of the coins were very original in color. They also had few marks. Some had a few flecks and some had carbon spots, but all in all they were very attractive coins.

The following table (Table 1) indicates the date, estimated replacement value, and grade for each coin examined. The dates without a value/grade I did not examine as they were on display in the exhibit. It is noteworthy that all the coins are mint state coins except the 1877, which is only a VF-35! It is speculated that the original 1877 was switched sometime in the past. Perhaps the switch occurred when the collection was stored in the public library.

I found several varieties, an 1864/64 CN (S-2), an 18/1867 (S-7) which has a neat circular die crack around most of the motto, and an 1884 8/8 (S-3) MS-63 Brn.

Mr. Lee then showed me the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent patterns. I examined several 1855 Flying Eagle large cents a small Eagle 1858 plain oak wreath (Fig 1), and an 1863 pattern orioide composition cent, all of which I had never

Table 1

| New Cat# | Old Catig | Date | Denom. | Comments | Size(mm) | Value | Grade |
|----------------|-----------|------|----------|---|----------|---------|-------|
| C 1989.52.3410 | 0717 | 1859 | One Cent | ultrasonic treatment - July 15, 1998 | 19 | | |
| C 1989.52.3435 | 0741 | 1861 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$160 | MS-61 |
| C 1989.52.3447 | 0753 | 1862 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$70 | MS-60 |
| C 1989.52.3457 | 0763 | 1863 | One Cent | ultrasonic treatment - July 15, 1998; price | 19 | \$150 | MS-63 |
| C 1989.52.3468 | 0774 | 1864 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$125 | MS-60 |
| C 1989.52.3469 | 0775 | 1864 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$175 | MS-64 |
| C 1989.52.3494 | 0800 | 1866 | One Cent | ultrasonic treatment - July 15, 1998; no L, | 19 | | |
| C 1989.52.3507 | 0813 | 1867 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$800 | MS-63 |
| C 1989.52.3588 | 0893A | 1873 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$275 | MS-63 |
| C 1989.52.3607 | 0912 | 1874 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$700 | MS-65 |
| C 1989.52.3618 | 0924 | 1875 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$225 | MS-63 |
| C 1989.52.3634 | 0939 | 1876 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$425 | MS-64 |
| C 1989.52.3647 | 0950 | 1877 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$1,150 | VF-35 |
| C 1989.52.3664 | 0967 | 1878 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$195 | MS-63 |
| C 1989.52.3678 | 0981 | 1879 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$400 | MS-65 |
| C 1989.52.3691 | 0994 | 1880 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$85 | MS-64 |
| C 1989.52.3730 | 1032 | 1884 | One Cent | price and grade from Quent Hansen 7/6/99; | 19 | \$120 | MS-63 |
| | | 1863 | One Cent | error coin: bottleneck | | \$4,000 | MS-63 |
| | | 1863 | One Cent | error coin broad struck and ? | | \$2,000 | |

courtesy of Durham Western Heritage Museum

Continued on page 22

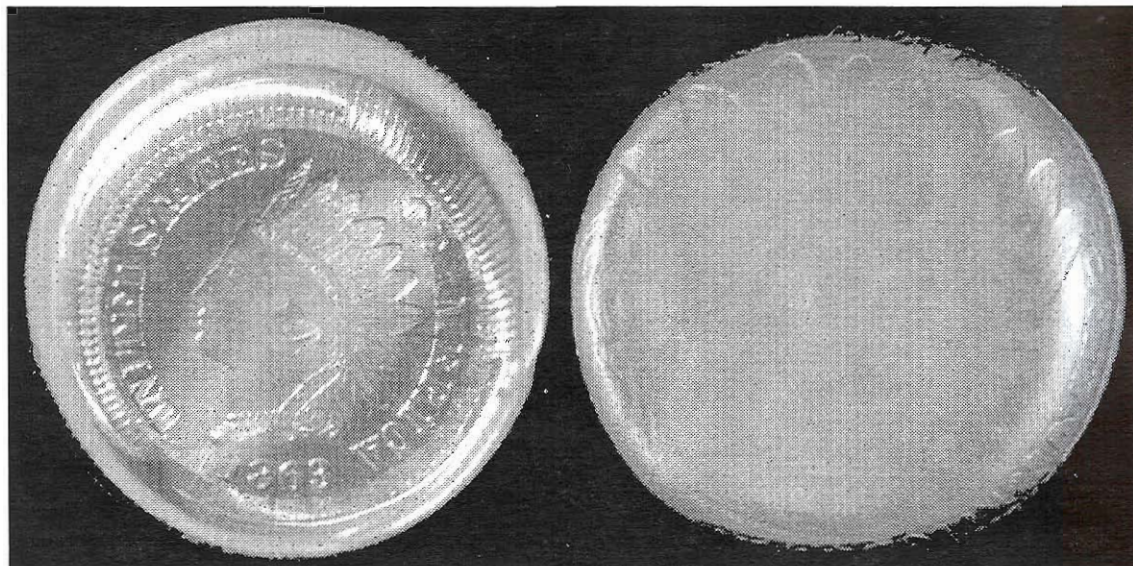


Fig 2. 1863 "Bottle cap"
courtesy of Durham Western Heritage Museum

been able to examine up close before. To top the day off, Mr. Lee showed me three spectacular error Indian Cents that Mr. Reed had in his collection. The photos (Fig. 2), show the 1863 "bottle cap" error which is very rare on copper nickel Indian cents, and an error copper nickel Indian cent with two reverses (Fig.3). Note that this seems to be a broadstruck, but since neither of the images are incuse with a mirror image, it does not appear to be a brockage as well. If anyone has any suggestions as to what type of error this might be please let me know. The third error was an 1863 Indian cent with a well centered broadstrike about the size of a quarter. These pieces are especially interesting as it was not popular to collect mint

errors in the 19th century. Perhaps major exotic errors were saved as conversation pieces by some collectors.

It was an experience that I will always remember. When visiting Omaha, please make the Durham Western Heritage Museum, located in the refurbished Union Pacific train station, one of your stops. It is not far from the Henry Doorly Zoo and the Old Market. Larry Lee and his staff have made an outstanding exhibit for all to share.

We invite our readers to comment on the 1863 reverse "Broadstruck". This editor feels it is a brockage struck off another brockage. What's your opinion? RS.

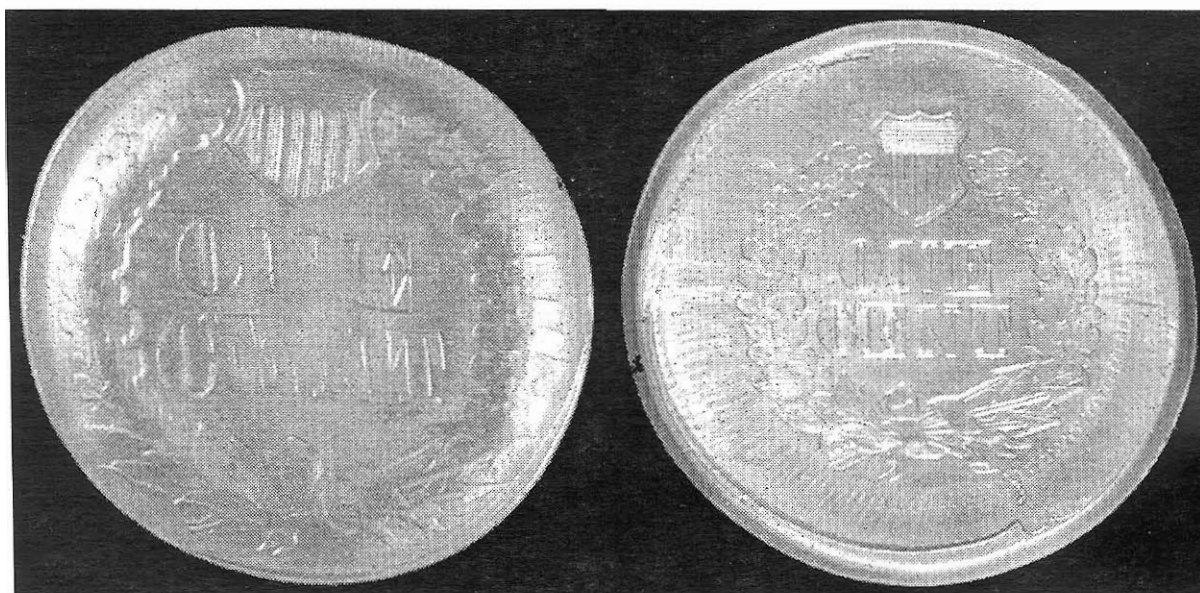


Fig. 3 1863 Broadstruck and ???
courtesy of Durham Western Heritage Museum

Something New

By Rick Snow
Club Attributer



1858 LL S12

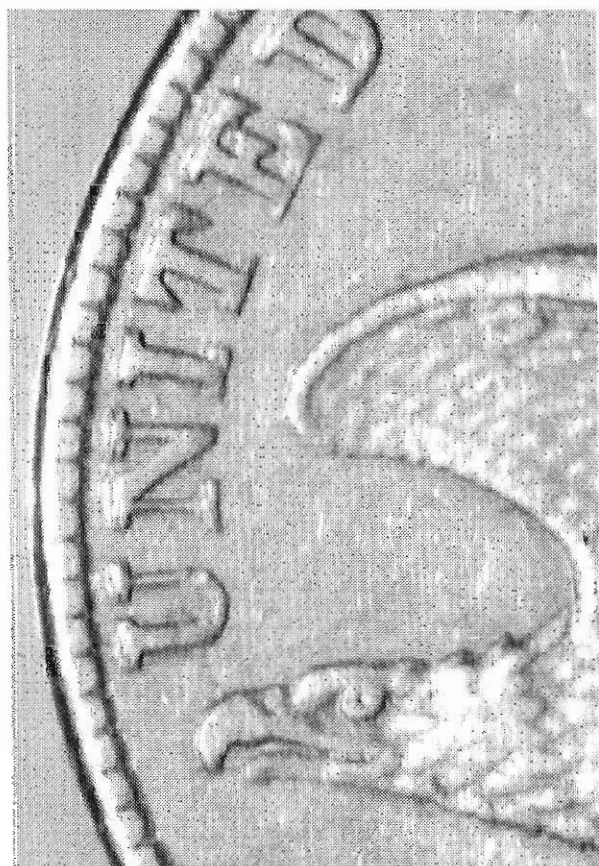
1858/858 (s).

Obv. 13: (B) Minute repunching visible inside the upper loops of the 8's and under the flag of the 5. The die was heavily ground around the date area leaving a large raised area under the 858 in the date. Heavy die polish marks in the field area below the Eagle's tail.

Rev. T1-J: Ribbon ends connected to denticles. E in One slightly open.

Attributed to R.Snow

This is a minor repunched date, but it looks as though the die maker caught it and tried to efface the repunching.



1858 SL S7

Doubled die obverse. 1-O-II.

Obv. 8: (RH) Significant doubling visible on the serifs of UNITED.

Rev. T1-K: E in one partially open.

Attributed to : D.Curry

This is a very neat doubled die. While Don has found that many small letter 1858's are paired with doubled die reverses, very few obverses have turned up.

Strike doubling is a real problem for 1858 Small letters. Nearly all sent in to date have turned out to be caused by strike doubling, which is caused when loose dies move slightly during striking, creating flat shelf-like outlines on the letters, date and eagle. Remember Flying Eagle doubled die obverses only have doubling on the legend and eagle, not the date.

Continued on page 24

1862 S4

Boxes in denticles.

Obv. 6: (C) Two boxlike protrusions are visible in the denticles to the left of the date. Date very close to bust point. Rim crubling from 3:00 to 12:30.

Rev F: Olive leaf and shield points away from denticles. Die crack from right wreath vertically to denticles at 1:00.

Note: Reverse rotated 30 deg. to the right.

Attributed to :R. Snow

It is difficult to say exactly what the protrusion in the denticles is from.



1868 S9

1868/68 (s).

Obv. 11: (B) Slight repunching visible on the base of the 6 and under the tops of both loops of the 8. Heavy die polish line from the base of the last S in STATES through the first three feather tips.

Rev. K: Shield points and olive leaf away from denticles. Numerous die lines between the C in CENT and the wreath. Small die chip in side the O in ONE.

Attributed to A.Murphy

A very minor repunched date. Can you see it?



1875 S12

8 in Denticles

Obv. 14: (RE) The top of an 8 digit is very bold in the denticles below the 5 in the date.

Rev. T3-O: Shield points and olive leaf well away from the denticles.

Attributed to: L. Briggs





1891 S23

Doubled die reverse. 2-R-II.

Obv. 25: (RH) High grade, early die states may show a die polishing line from the base of the 8 through the lower half of the 9 & 1.

Rev. Z: Very light doubling visible only on the right wreath from 3:00 to 5:00. Shield points and olive leaf connected to the denticles.

Attributed to: W. Van Note



1896 S15

1/1896/6 (s, ne).

Obv. 19: (B) Repunching visible at the base of the 1 and inside the loop of the 6.

Rev. S: Olive leaf and shield points connected to the denticles.

Attributed to T. Cartwright

Continued on page 26

1907 S35

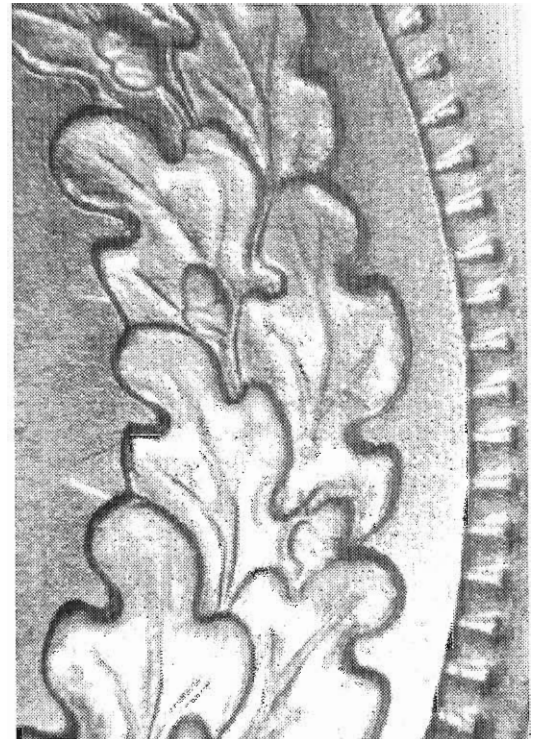
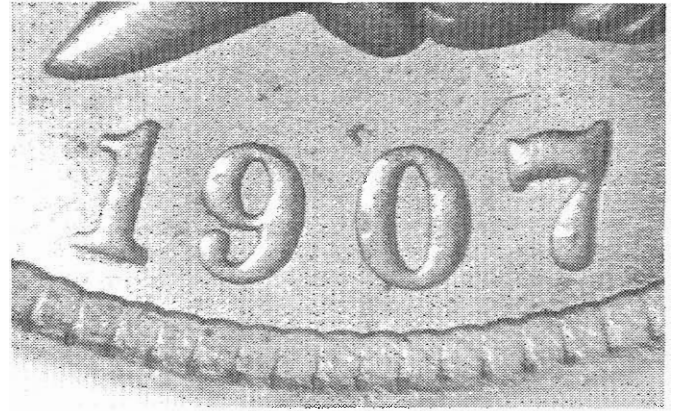
1/1907 (s),

Doubled Die Reverse 1-R-II.

Obv. 36: (LH) Light repunching visible at the base of the 1.

Rev. A1: Minor distorted hub doubling visible only on the right wreath veins. Right shield point connected to the denticles, left away. Olive leaf well away from the denticles.

Attributed to W. Van Note



How to submit coins for attribution

What should be submitted: Any premium value variety which is not listed in the Fly-In Club Attribution Guide. Any overdate, doubled die, repunched date, and misplaced digit (provided it is dramatic enough) should be submitted.

How to submit a coin for attribution: There is no limit on submissions. All coins should be sent to Fly-In Club Attributor,

**Rick Snow,
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How much does it cost?: Please include \$4 per coin, plus return postage. All coin will be returned via the U.S Post Office by registered and insured postage. Their cost is \$5 plus \$1 for every \$1,000 in insured value.

What will I get?: All new listings will be added to future editions of the Attribution guide (available from EERC at Rick Snow's address for \$15.95 + \$3 P&H). New varieties will be listed in a future issue of Longacre's Ledger, space permitting.

THE F.IND.ERS™ REPORT

“Reexamination: Discovering the 1857 Flying Eagle cent MPD”

By: Larry R. Steve

Fly-In Club Life Member

Several years ago, here in the pages of the *Ledger*, I had reported my analysis and finding that the so-called “die chip” on the 1858/7 S-1 was, in fact, the corner of the base of a 1! This discovery was made during a reexamination of my coin, prompted by a comment Jack Beymer made, at the time, that no one had previously determined the cause of the die chip. In a different issue of the *Ledger* I presented the term “misplaced date” to define and describe the unusual characteristic of finding digit(s) or parts of digits from a date punch in areas of the coin not normally associated with the general location of the date. This new area of die variety study prompted, not only myself, but many other collectors to search for these hidden treasures.

Every now and then I like to take the time and reexamine certain coins in my collection. I do so in the hopes of finding some additional clues as to the cause of a particular characteristic. At other times, I simply recheck the coins to see if I had overlooked anything, such as misplaced dates. One such coin that I reexamined is an 1857 Flying Eagle cent with an internal cud under the wing, better known as the “weeping wing” variety (although I disagreed with the argument that a die chip constitutes a die variety, and suggest that they should not be listed as such). The purpose of undertaking this study was to try and find some clues as to the cause of the cud. In this quest, I also seek the opinion of others who share a similar interest.

One such individual is Chris Pilliod. I have had numerous conversations with Chris over the course of these past number of years, and his insights have always been most invaluable. He had informed me that this particular coin also appears with a retained cud, and that these were very difficult to find. Furthermore, Mint State specimens are exceedingly

rare, save for one previously reported piece that may have been lightly cleaned at one time (cleaning unconfirmed). Thus, when Howard Frydman (H & E Galleries) called to tell me that he had an 1857 Flying Eagle cent with a “lump of metal” in the middle of the coin, graded NGC-63, and he wanted to know if I was interested in buying the piece, I said “of course” without hesitation. Now, I’m not particularly interested in cuds of any sort, and so I didn’t put much stock in this coin. I have more of a interest and focus on die varieties, rather than “errors” of this nature. My expectations were that this would be a nice specimen to study — nothing more, nothing less.

When the coin arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the cud on the coin was in a mid stage of its progression — partial cud/partial retained cud. We now knew that the center area of the die was crumbling to some degree. This was an important aspect in its own right, although the initial cause still eludes you. However, something else caught my eye on the Mint State specimen! Off to the left and in the neck were other, much smaller, “lumps of metal”. I immediately reexamined my circulated piece and found some of the same characteristics. They were easily overlooked the first time I examined the coin due to its slight wear. Could these be related in some way to the central cud that was forming? Was the die crumbling to a lesser degree in other areas of the coin? I shifted my focus of study on these other “cuds”. They seemed important to me.

I drew upon my earlier experiences and methods of analysis of other coins, notably the previous examination of the 1858/7 and other misplaced dates, to continue my study this particular coin. Imagine my astonishment when I recognized that these were misplaced digits! All totaled there were five digits! I needed a second and a third and a fourth

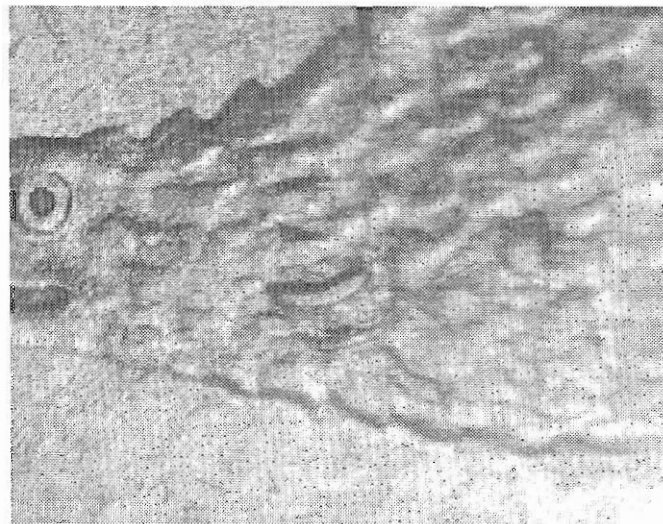


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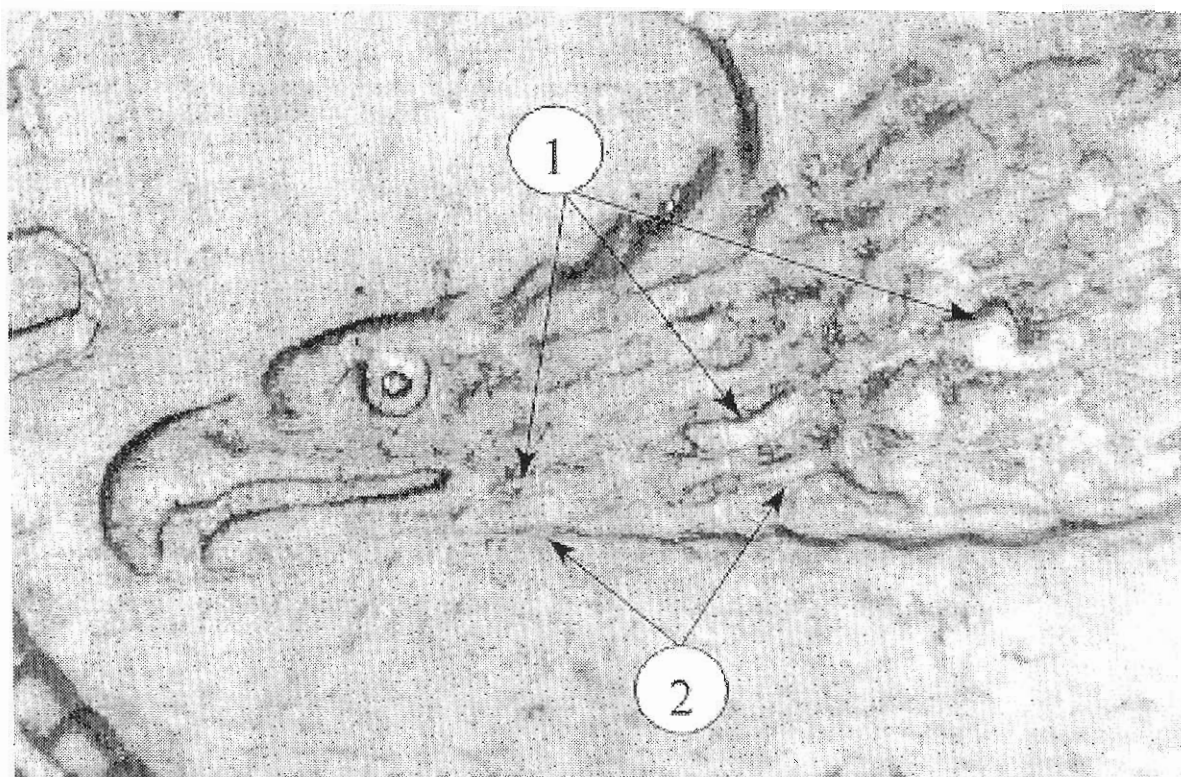
opinion. As a side note, it's my opinion that any researcher worthy of serious consideration should always seek the opinions of others; and that confirmation pieces (second specimens) be studied whenever possible. I also do not believe that the pronouncement of a discovery should be made upon the examination of a single "problem" coin (i.e. damaged, corroded, whizzed, etc.), at least not without a disclaimer or full disclosure of the coin's condition. Nor do I believe should a pronouncement be made without physically examining the coin. It's simply not good research. In any event, I sent my two specimens off to J. T. Stanton and Mike Ellis. Chris later examined the coins, and I also called Ken Hill to have him examine his piece.

Following is the end result of several months of study: The first set of photos show the obverse and reverse of the coin in question. The internal central cud on the obverse is clearly visible and would remain so on lower grade coins, the misplaced digits would not.

The next photos shows the base of the digits 8, 5 and 7 misplaced in the neck. The base of a second 5 is found below the first 5. The base of a second 8 is found protruding from the neck below the first 8. It is believed (by this author) that the date punched was dropped leaving an impression of an 8, 5 and 7 (item #1); the date punch then bounced to the south leaving a lighter impression of another 8 and 5. Numerous die polish lines in and about these digits suggest that the die sinker was aware of the problem and attempted to remove them.

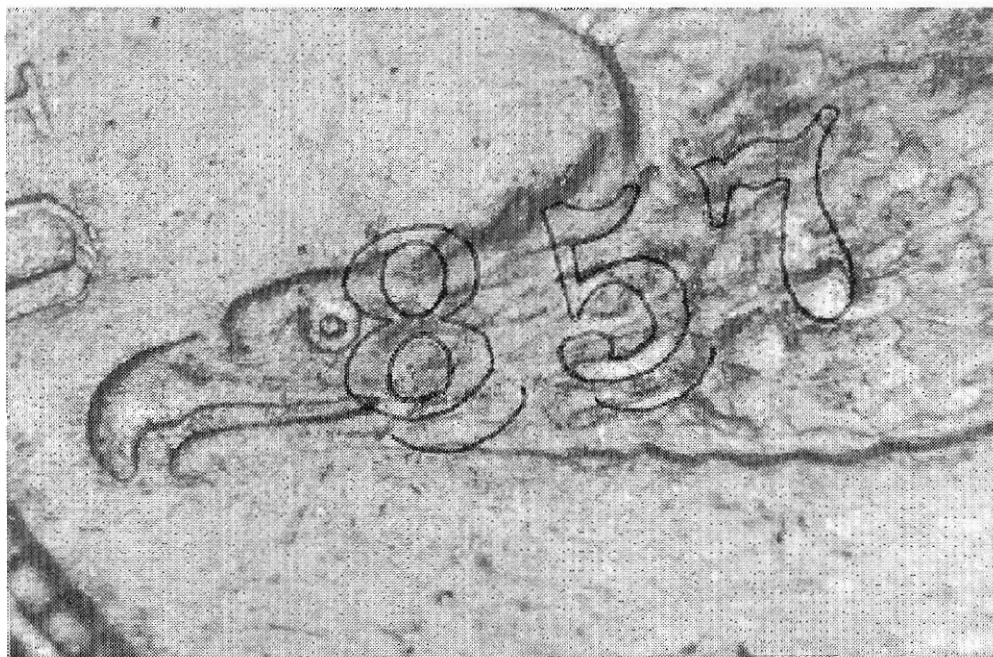


1857 MPD - 8,5 & 7 in neck.



Locations of the MPD's

Continued on page 28



Overlay showing the placement of the misplaced digits

The overlay of the outline of the date, shown below, provides clear and convincing evidence of the misplaced digits.

P.S. As I write this, I am examining yet another piece — one with a fully retained cud, a very early die state specimen — which may show the base tip of another 7 below and slightly toward the right of the first 7. It's a bit faint, but it is in perfect alignment with the other two digits of the second impression.

In closing, I'd like to thank J. T. Stanton and Ken Hill for the photos. We have come a long way since those earlier days more than a decade ago. (My, how times flies when you're having fun.) The numismatic community is beginning to more fully embrace the aspect of die variety collecting, with many new and fascinating discoveries coming to light. Add

one more important die variety to search for on your list of coins; and good hunting.

EDITOR'S NOTE: F.IND.ERS IS A TRADEMARK OF LARRY R. STEVE AND IS USED WITHIN THIS JOURNAL WITH HIS PERMISSION.

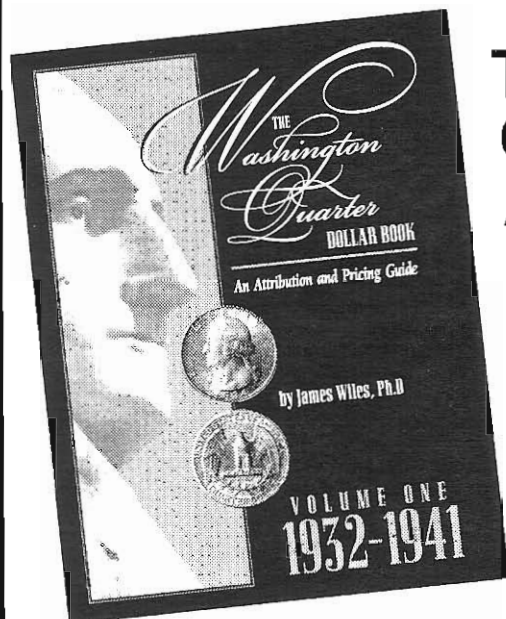
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- 1891 ANA-AU55 S-1** The rare doubled die obverse. We've only handled 3 examples in the 8 years since it's discovery. A very popular doubled die. A super choice example.....**\$950**
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